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Genealogy

(Class CR, CS, Z688.G3, Z5301-Z5319, Z6374.B5 as appropriate)

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I. Scope

The genealogy collections include compiled family histories from around the world; royalty, nobility, and peerage information; and personal and family names by country and nationality. In the Library of Congress, heraldry falls in the CR class and genealogy is classified as CS.

Donations, the mandatory copyright deposit law, and purchase are the means by which the Library builds its genealogical collection.

In addition to class CS, related material of great significance to genealogy is found in the areas of archival resources, biography, church history, folklore, geography, history, and local history. Although frequently associated with genealogy, works in the field of local history are treated in detail in a separate Collections Policy Statement, Local History. Important genealogical resources are also found in special collections of manuscripts, maps and atlases, microforms, newspapers, photographs, rare books, and electronic resources, housed in various custodial divisions of the Library. For a description of the genealogical collection, refer to the Genealogy and Heraldry Collections Overview statement.

II. Research Strengths

The Library of Congress has one of the world's major collections of U.S. and foreign genealogical publications. The Library's genealogy collection began as early as 1815 when Thomas Jefferson's library was purchased. The Jefferson Library included the *Domesday Book*, Sir William Dugdale's *The Baronetage of England*, and *Peerage of Ireland*. Because many genealogies are self-published and have been given to the Library for many generations from around the world, the Library's collection now contains more than 50,000 compiled genealogies.

The collection is strongest in United States publications, emphasizing American genealogy, with compiled family histories comprising the majority of works cataloged. The Library also collects foreign genealogies, and researchers doing foreign research will find strong collections for Western Europe, especially the United Kingdom, Ireland and Germany.

The Library of Congress offers electronic resources including Web-based subscription databases of newspapers, journals, books, magazines, manuals, and other materials relevant to genealogical

research. Databases, including *Ancestry Library Edition*, *Heritage Quest Online*, *Accessible Archives*, *New England Ancestors*, and *ProQuest Historical Newspapers*, provide enhanced accessibility to the Library's collections and to those of other institutions. These electronic resources supplement the Library's extensive print holdings while adding unique collections, such as unpublished census, vital records, and military records, that the Library would not otherwise have available. The Local History & Genealogy Reading Room houses an uncataloged collection of pedigree charts and unpublished genealogical material relating to families and geographic areas.

Although not belonging to the genealogical collections proper, as outlined in Class CS, other resources valuable for genealogical research are found in the Library's extensive collection of city and telephone directories. City Directories of the United States, in the Microform Reading Room, is a microform collection of directories from selected cities and towns, dating from the colonial period to as recently as 1960. This ongoing project uses the Library's directory collection as its core. These microforms are supplemented by the Library's extensive collection of unclassified city directories in paper.

Below are examples of just a few of many significant resources available to genealogists that are found in the Library's special collections:

The Charles Edward Banks Manuscript Collection, housed in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division, comprises 54 uncataloged volumes relating to early Pilgrim families in Massachusetts. The collection is also available on microfilm in the Microform Reading Room.

Land ownership maps, housed in the Geography and Map Division, form a collection of 1500 U.S. county maps dating from the early nineteenth century that are both unique and useful to genealogists.

The Hamburg Passenger Lists, located in the Manuscript Division, contain sixty-six reels of microfilm listing passengers embarking for America from the port of Hamburg during the period 1850-1873.

III. Collecting Policy

The Library collects genealogies and genealogical research materials at the collecting intensity levels indicated in the Collecting Levels section below, in all languages and in all fields wherever they may be published, whether in traditional print or other media, including electronic forms, as practical and technical circumstances permit. Both monographs and serials, including self-published materials, are sought. The Library acquires all substantial subject bibliographies and other reference works on genealogy, and collects extensively the journals and major indexing and abstracting services in the field. Substantial is defined as information that is of significant research value that presents new information, research, and analysis. Donations, the mandatory copyright deposit law, and purchase are the means by which the Library builds its genealogical collection. The Copyright Best Edition statement provides guidance for selecting materials for the genealogy collection.

IV. Acquisitions Sources: Current and Future

Patterns of publication and distribution, for both mainstream and self-published works, are significant factors in attempting to build collections that support genealogical research by United States citizens whose ancestry or personal origins are from around the world. Because of the ephemeral nature of many self-published compiled genealogies, and because genealogies are the top priority for acquisitions in this field, special efforts are required to identify and obtain this information.

Unpublished gift materials are reviewed on a case by case basis; materials of an ephemeral nature, brochures and pamphlets, are generally added to the Vertical File in the Local History and Genealogy Reading Room. Family history newsletters are typically filed in the Local History and Genealogy Reading Room Vertical File until the Recommending Officer decides whether they should be sent forward for cataloging.

Not all materials deposited with the U.S. Copyright Office are added to the Library's General Collections. If the item is marked as published on the Copyright registration form by the registrant, then a copy can be selected for the Library's collections; however, if the registrant indicates that the work is unpublished then the item must be held by the Copyright Office. In the case of unpublished deposits, Recommending Officers work with the U.S. Copyright Office to identify items that are appropriate for inclusion in the genealogical collection. The Recommending Officer solicits an additional copy from the author of each work which is then added to the Library's general collections. (See Copyright Circular 96: Transfer of Unpublished Copyright Deposits to the Library of Congress: 37 C.F.R. §201.23). The cost of reproducing copies of unpublished genealogies selected from copyright deposits must be borne by the Library of Congress.

Foreign publications, electronic resources, and materials not available through donation, copyright deposit or division GENPAC funds, are purchased with funds provided by the Marguerite S. Roll Trust Fund. This fund was established for the development of the local history and genealogy collections.

V. Collecting Levels

The Library's collection of genealogies and related materials in the CS classification is broadly representative of published literature in this field, and attempts to encompass all significant publications including those that are self-published in all applicable languages. Older material is retained for historical research.

The Library of Congress comprehensively collects published genealogical material, including self-published works, that are related to the United States and its possessions, including all ethnic groups. Collecting Level 5.

The Library collects genealogical material for neighboring nations, and those countries and areas from which significant cultural and ethnic communities in the United States derive. Collecting Level 4.

The Library collects genealogical bibliographies, Z688.G3, Z5301-Z5319, and Z6374.B5. Collecting Level 5.

LC Classification	Collecting Level
CS69 + - Collective family histories covering more than one country which include the United States	5
CS71.A-Z - Individual family histories	5
CS80-2209 Genealogies by region or country (not including the United States)	4
Z688.G3	5
Z5301-Z5319	5

Z6374.B5	5
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